

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT

P.O. Box 1947
Sacramento, CA 95812-1947
(916) 576-7109
(916) 263-1406 (FAX)
(916) 263-1402 (TDD)



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To: Energy Service Providers

Subject: Window Replacement

The purpose of this broadcast is to clarify policies regarding the treatment and performance of window replacements under the Department of Energy (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program ("Regular") and DOE American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) contracts.

The most recent amendments to the DOE ARRA and 2009 DOE Regular Contracts included specific changes to the Priority List (Priority Measures) and Energy Audits requirement, also referred to as "Energy Measure Standards or Energy Measure Protocols". These protocols are essential to guiding the selection of DOE funded weatherization services to eligible dwellings. One of the many changes to the new Priority Measure list included, "window replacements" for energy-efficiency improvement/benefits.

The intent of the DOE Priority List is to simplify the selection of cost effective weatherization measures by offering a prescriptive list measures tailored to individual housing type and climate region. Cost effectiveness of each priority measure is determined by applying the DOE-approved audit tool (RemDesign) on representative housing stock fuel prices and measure costs. Due to regional differences in climate, measure costs, and to some degree dwelling types, the Department generally assigns additional criteria or attributes (i.e., maximum reimbursement, quantity limits, dwelling criteria, etc) to priority measures in an attempt to account for the varying factors and to assure the application of such measures achieves a certain degree of cost effectiveness.

Recent contract amendments to the DOE Priority List did not clearly delineate window replacements for infiltration reduction and energy-efficiency benefits (i.e., upgrading of single-pane wood or metal windows with low-E windows). Nor did references to window replacements as a Priority List measure carry the attributes or criteria necessary to account for regional differences in climate, measures cost, and housing types. To alleviate the confusion between the two types of window replacements, the Department is pursuing a policy change redefining window retrofit replacements as an "Optional Measure".

Under this policy change, the "Infiltration Reduction - Window Replacement Measure" and maximum expenditure (\$2400) will remain the same and continue to provide for the replacement of broken windows for infiltration reduction benefits -- limited to conditions meeting the definition of catastrophic leak in accordance with the CSD Weatherization Installation Standards.

In addition, the policy change would officially reassign window replacements (for energy efficiency) to the "Optional Measure" category, whereby the installation of this measure will be subject to and conditioned upon the performance of a site specific energy audit to assess feasibility and cost effectiveness. **This policy change will take effect May 1, 2011 and applies to any DOE and DOE ARRA dwellings assessed on or after this date.** The policy change will remain in effect until the Department can complete further analysis to define the attributes needed to classify window retrofits under the DOE Priority List. The Department anticipates completion of window analysis within the next 60-90 days.

In an effort to clarify criteria for assessing and prioritizing energy efficiency window installations under the existing Priority List, the following guidelines for window installation is effective immediately upon issuance of this broadcast and will remain in place until the May 1st new policy implementation:

- 1) All Priority Measures with higher Savings-to-Investment values must be given priority and included in the individual project's scope of work. To further clarify, DOE providers must install Priority Measures in descending order of SIR values and cannot circumvent the SIR ordering of measures to perform energy efficiency window installations – in the event there are feasible Priority Measures with higher SIR values. SIR values for Priority List Measures are referenced under Exhibit F, Attachment IV of the DOE ARRA Contract, and Exhibit F, Attachment V of the 2009 DOE Contract.
- 2) Energy efficiency window replacements are limited to single-pane wood or metal windows. Agencies are prohibited from replacing existing dual pane windows under the Priority List.
- 3) Priority must be given to window replacements to repair catastrophic leaks or windows with un-repairable leakage first.
- 4) Secondary priority must be given to the West and South exposure windows, only after catastrophic leakage windows are addressed.
- 5) The maximum per unit for both window energy efficiency replacement and catastrophic leak repair cannot exceed a total of \$2400, per weatherized dwelling.

A program guidance is forthcoming to implement this policy change. Please direct all questions and concerns regarding this broadcast to the attention of your assigned field representative.